THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. The Ministry of Tourism also monitors the physical and financial progress of the projects through site visits and review meetings/conferences. The Ministry of Tourism has taken steps to achieve synergy for development and promotion of tourism in the country among the Central Ministries, States/Union Territories and other Stakeholders.

Developing coastal cities as cruise hub of the region

1633. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether we are planning to develop Mumbai, Kolkata or any other coastal city as the cruise hub of the region, leveraging on our excellent air, land and sea connectivity, thereby attracting more travellers from the Middle-East, Gulf, etc;

(b) if so, has any study been undertaken to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure; and

(c) will special campaigns be launched by our foreign-based tourist offices or through print and media mode to popularize our varied landscapes, warm hospitality and multi-cultural shining and tempting ambience?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government has approved the cruise shipping policy to develop and promote Cruise Tourism in India. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 1450.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi in 2008-09 for development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala.

(b) No study has been undertaken by this Ministry to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure. However, Ministry of Tourism in the year 2005 had undertaken a study on "Cruise Tourism Potential & Strategy Study".

(c) Ministry of Tourism promotes cruise tourism through brochures, Compact Discs and publicity materials distributed through its Indiatourism offices in the country and abroad.

Selection of more tourist spots in the country

1634. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: